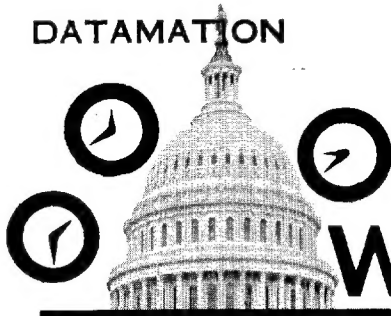


DATAMATION



# WASHINGTON REPORT

HR 4845 HEARINGS END,  
STILL FACES SENATE

Spokesmen for the Budget Bureau and the Defense Dept. voiced a multitude of qualms and quibbles concerning H.R. 4845 at hearings conducted recently before the House Government Activities subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Jack Brooks, the bill's sponsor. Both Elmer Staats, deputy to Budget Director Kermit Gordon, and Paul Ignatius, DOD Undersecretary for Installation & Logistics, refrained from expressing outright opposition to the measure, which would lodge within the General Services Admin. sweeping procurement powers for dp equipment used by all federal agencies. Word was out that President Johnson, enamored both with government economy and "Government by Consensus," had given a benison to the goals of 4845 and would not take kindly to any agency stating public opposition.

This placed BOB in an especially ticklish position since their recently-issued report on government dp operations (also bearing the President's imprimatur) explicitly rejected the central tenets of the Brooks bill. Hence, the bureau's position statements at the hearings were exquisite in their murkiness. Testimony by Ignatius and his chief assistant, Paul Riley, was in the same vein. Kinder words were spoken for 4845 by spokesmen for GSA and the Dept. of Commerce (Bureau of Standards), and by Joseph Campbell, head of the General Accounting Office, who in fact plumped for stronger language in the bill.

With hearings concluded, informed prognosis is that 4845 will be favorably reported out of committee, as it was in '63, and come to a quick vote on the House floor. It's a different story on the Senate side, however, where no sense of urgency concerning dp legislation is discerned in the Government Operations Committee. "Frankly," said a committee aide, "we're not convinced of the need for any legislation in this area." Sen. McClellan's committee already has a crowded docket of hearings, and it may be some time before it gets around to government dp unless some Olympian bolt is forthcoming from the White House.

LINKED COMPUTER NETWORK  
LIKE THE MILITARY HAS

Implementation of the Advanced Record Service on GSA's Federal Telecommunication System this summer will give a big boost to the plans of many non-military federal agencies to establish far-flung computer nets. Some of the agencies reportedly planning to tap into FTS soonest for this service are Agriculture, Internal Revenue, Social Security, Bureau of Reclamation. The nets would consist of a large-scale computer complex in central HQ linked to I/O terminals in district offices, with bulk data transfer back and forth over FTS facilities. Lower communications costs via FTS will make netting practical, whereas before it was only possible. Also looming large on the FTS horizon: time-sharing.



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